

WATER RULES  
OF THE  
ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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## RULE W-1

### Application and Scope

- (A) These rules and regulations shall apply to all water systems subject to the jurisdiction of the Alabama Public Service Commission. They are intended to promote good utility practices, to assure adequate and efficient service to the public at a reasonable cost, and to establish the rights and responsibilities of both the utility and the customer.
- (B) If compliance with any of these rules causes unusual hardship, application may be made to the Commission for modification of the rules or for temporary exemption from its requirements, provided the utility submits with such application a complete explanation as to the reason thereof.
- (C) No deviation from these rules shall be permitted without authorization granted by the Commission.
- (D) Adoption of these rules shall in no way preclude the Commission, upon complaint or upon its own motion, from altering or amending them, in whole or in part.
- (E) It is not intended that any rule or regulation herein shall supersede or conflict with an applicable regulation of the State of Alabama, Department of Public Health, or the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- (F) The adoption of these rules shall in no way relieve any utility from any duties under the laws of the State of Alabama.

## RULE W-2

### Definitions

- (A) "Commission" -- The Alabama Public Service Commission.
- (B) "Utility" -- Any water utility covered by Title 37, Code of Alabama, 1975.
- (C) "Customer" -- Any person, firm, association, corporation, governmental agency, or any organization furnished service from any water utility under the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- (D) "Main" -- The term "Main" shall refer to a pipe, conduit, or facility installed to serve customer service pipes or other mains.
- (E) "Meter" -- Any device used for the purpose of measuring the flow of water.

- (F) "Service Pipe" -- The term used to define the connection between the utility's mains and the service connection.
- (G) "Service Connection" -- This term describes the point of connection of the customer's piping with the meter or service pipe owned by the utility.
- (H) "Point of Delivery" -- (1) For metered service shall be the outlet connection of the meter; (2) For non-metered service shall be the point at which the utility connects with the customer's piping.

RULE W-3

Application for Certificates

- (A) In addition to any special request by the Commission, the following will be required:

- 1. Separate Applications Required:

- a. Applications for certificates must be filed separately for each water system.
- b. The original and two (2) copies shall be filed with the Commission.

- 2. Form of Application

- a. Each application shall be addressed to the Alabama Public Service Commission and filed with the Secretary of the Commission.
- b. Each application shall be subscribed and sworn to before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths, by the owner, officer, general partner or other responsible individual member of applicant's management.
- c. Each application shall specify or show by exhibit attached thereto, the following:
  - (1) Full and accurate name and address of the applicant.
  - (2) Character of the organization; e.g., corporation, partnership, individual proprietorship, or association.
  - (3) Schedule showing all rates, classifications and charges for service of every kind furnished or to be furnished and all rules and regulations.
  - (4) Detailed facility map, plans, and specifications of existing or proposed plant showing location and size of water mains.

- (5) Copy of franchise agreement and/or approval of municipal authorities (or county permits).
- (6) Estimate in reasonable detail of the cost of proposed construction.
- (7) Copy of State Board of Health permit.
- (8) Plan of financing and financial ability to construct and operate.
- (9) Estimated revenue to be derived from this operation, indicating the estimated number of consumers in each classification of service and operating expense in reasonable detail.
- (10) State number of certified operators.
- (11) Copy of special contracts, if any.

#### RULE W-4

##### Transfer of Certificates

- (A) Application for approval of proposed assignment or transfer of a certificate, facilities or any portion thereof, or capital stock of a utility subject to regulation under Chapter 37-4, Code of Alabama, 1975, shall be fully documented and supported to show that the proposed action is in the public interest.
- (B) The original and two (2) copies of the application shall be filed with the Alabama Public Service Commission.
- (C) Contents and number of copies of the transfer application for approval of proposed assignment and transfer shall include:
  1. The full name and address of the seller.
  2. The full name and address of the buyer.
  3. The type of business organization of the buyer, (corporation, partnership, individual proprietorship).
  4. If the buyer is a corporation, list the names and addresses of corporate officers and directors.
  5. If the buyer is other than a corporation, list the names and addresses of the owners thereof.
  6. If the buyer is other than an individual proprietorship, list the date and state of incorporation or organization.

7. List the names and locations of any other public utilities owned by the buyer.
8. Plans for any future expansion and anticipated customer increase.
9. Daily and monthly peak demands on the system.
10. Schedule showing all rates, classifications, and charges for services furnished and all rules and regulations to be used should the application be approved.
11. Copy of the contract of sale. An executed copy of the contract of sale of a certificate or a system or a portion thereof.
12. Customers' deposits and interest thereon.
13. Guaranteed revenue contracts, disposition of.
14. Developer agreements.
15. Debt of the utility.
16. Purchase price and terms of payment.
17. A detailed list of the assets purchased and liabilities assumed.

- (D) Statement of the buyer as to how the purchase is being financed.
- (E) Statement of facts relied upon by the applicant to show that the transfer is in the public interest, including a summary of the proposed buyer's experience in water utility operation and a showing of financial ability to provide the service.
- (F) Applicant should be prepared to provide proof of publication of the advertisement required by the Alabama Public Service Commission.

#### Expansion of a Certificated Area

- (A) Application for approval of expansion of a certificated area should include:
1. Detailed facility map, plans, and specifications of proposed expansion area showing location and size of water system.
  2. Applicant must demonstrate ability to supply existing, as well as new customers, in service expansion area with an adequate source of water.
  3. Number of new customers for each classification and expected peak monthly usage for each classification.

4. Expected number of customers for each classification for each year ending for the next five years.
5. All expenses associated with expanding the system and the method of financing such an expansion.

#### RULE W-5

##### Records and Reports

(A) Requirements -- Each utility shall furnish the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, the results of any required tests and summaries of any required records. The utility shall also furnish the Commission with any information concerning the utility's facilities or operations which the Commission may request for determining rates or judging the practices of the utility. All such data, unless specified, shall be consistent with and reconcilable with the utility's Annual Report to the Commission.

1. For accounting provisions, refer to General Rules and Regulations Governing Uniform System of Accounting and Reporting.

#### RULE W-6

##### Purity of Water Supply

(A) All water furnished by any utility for human consumption, or for domestic uses, shall be pure, wholesome, potable, not dangerous to health and, insofar as practicable, free from objectionable odor and tests. All water furnished by any utility for human consumption or household purposes shall comply with all requirements of the Alabama State Board of Health.

#### RULE W-7

##### Analyses and Records

(A) The Commission reserves the right to require, under its supervision, an extended bacteriological, as well as physical and chemical, examination when deemed advisable for any particular water furnished. The results of all tests made either by the State Board of Health or by the utility shall be kept on file in the office of the utility for Commission staff inspection. These records shall indicate when, where, and by whom these tests were made. The standard method of testing recommended by the American Public Health Association shall be followed as regards the examinations and collection of water, and any departure therefrom

shall be specifically stated. Whenever tests made by the State Board of Health, by the utility or by another person discloses the presence of bacillus coli, or any unnecessarily high bacterial count, the utility shall immediately take action to make its water supply safe for human and domestic purposes.

#### RULE W-8

##### New Source of Supply

- (A) When any utility proposes to use water from a new or different source of supply, it shall be required to obtain approval from the Commission. Before such approval can be obtained, the utility shall be required to furnish a permit from the State Board of Health approving the use of a new supply.

#### RULE W-9

##### Protection of Water Supply

- (A) General Requirements -- The water supply system, including wells, pumping equipment, treatment works, mains, and service pipes shall be free from sanitary defects.
- (B) Connection Prohibited -- No physical connection between the distribution system of a public potable water supply and that of any other water supply shall be permitted, unless such other water supply maintains a safe, sanitary quality in accordance with these rules and regulations, and the interconnection of both supplies is approved by the State Board of Health.
- (C) Algae -- The growth of algae in the water at the source of supply in reservoirs or other basins, and in the water mains shall be controlled by proper treatment.
- (D) Wells -- Utilities obtaining water supplies from driven or drilled wells shall maintain the tightness of well castings and provide protection at the surface of the ground to prevent the infiltration of water other than that from the strata tapped by such wells.

#### RULE W-10

##### Operation of "Dead Ends"

- (A) "Dead Ends" in the distribution mains should be avoided as far as possible. If such "dead ends" exist, they shall be flushed not less than each ninety (90) days, or more if conditions require. To ensure compliance with this requirement, all "dead ends" or mains of four (4) inches in size or larger shall be equipped with hydrants or blowoff valves. Records shall be kept of all flushing of mains showing the date, place, and duration of flushing.



## RULE W-11

### Adequate Service Requirements

- (A) Pressure -- Water utilities shall make every effort to maintain a pressure on their distribution systems which shall not at any time fall below the minimum of 35 PSI or rise above the maximum pressure of 125 PSI at customer's service connections. However, on rural lines where fire protection is not furnished, the minimum pressure may be as low as 25 PSI. The above-mentioned pressures shall be under all conditions of flow.
- (B) Fire Hydrant Service -- In addition to furnishing domestic and commercial service, each utility furnishing fire hydrant service must be able, within a reasonable period of time after notice, to supply fire hydrant service to local firefighting equipment and facilities. No utility shall, however, be required to install larger mains for fire hydrants or otherwise supply fire service unless proper contractual arrangements shall have been made with the utility by the municipality, agency, or individual desiring such service.

## RULE W-12

### Station Meters and Pressure Surveys

- (A) Station Meters -- Each utility furnishing water service shall install at each operation such station meters and instruments as may be necessary to obtain a daily and monthly record of the total amounts of water delivered into the mains.
- (B) Pressure Gauges
  - 1. Each utility furnishing water service to 1,000 customers or more shall maintain a graphic recording pressure gauge at its plant, business office, or at some central point in the distributing system or each subdivision thereof where continuous records shall be made of the pressure in the mains at that point.
  - 2. Utilities furnishing water service to 5,000 or more customers shall equip themselves with one or more graphic recording pressure gauges, in addition to the foregoing, and shall make frequent records during periods of maximum use, each covering intervals of at least 24 hours' duration of the water pressure at various points on the system.
  - 3. All records or charts made by these meters shall be identified, dated, and kept on file available for inspection. These records shall be retained for a period of six (6) years.

### RULE W-13

#### Customer Meters

- (A) Measurement of Service -- All water sold by a utility with 100 or more customers shall be upon the basis of metered volume sales except that the utility may, at its option, provide flat rate or estimated service for the following:
1. Temporary service where the water use can be readily estimated.
  2. Public and private fire protection service.
  3. Water used for street sprinkling and sewer flushing, when provided for by contract between the utility and the municipality or other local governmental authority.
  4. Other flat rate service arrangements shall be submitted to and approved by the Commission.
- (B) All meters used by any utility for metering sales to its customers shall conform to the standards for cold water meters as adopted by the American Water Works Association.

### RULE W-14

#### Meter Installation

- (A) Under normal conditions, meters should be located at or near the curb or property line. When such location is impractical, the meter may be located inside or outside buildings dependent upon local conditions. The utility shall require customers to provide a reasonably convenient and accessible place in which to install the meter. This location shall afford reasonable protection against mechanical damage.
- (B) When a number of meters are grouped, each meter shall be tagged so as to indicate the particular customer or premise served.
- (C) The utility shall install an accessible service control valve ahead of the meter.

### RULE W-15

#### Meter Testing Equipment

- (A) Each utility furnishing metered water service shall either provide the necessary standard facilities, instruments and other equipment for testing meters in compliance with these rules, or shall enter

into arrangements satisfactory to the Commission for test of its meters by another utility or agency equipped to test meters in compliance with these rules.

- (B) Standard meters may be used for field tests of meter accuracy provided they are tested and calibrated to permit the test of meters within the limits of accuracy required by these rules, either by the utility with its volumetric or weight standard equipment or by an approved laboratory at least once every sixty (60) days while the standard meter is in use, and a record of such tests shall be kept by the utility for a period of not less than five (5) years.

RULE W-16

Meter Test Methods

- (A) For the determination of minimum test flow and normal test flow limits, the standards and procedures set forth in the American Water Works Association Manual, as revised, for various types of meters shall be used.
- (B) All displacement-type cold water meters shall be tested on at least three rates of flow set forth in the following table, which is based on the American Water Works Association specifications:

<u>Meter Size</u> <u>Inches</u>	<u>Normal Test</u> <u>Flow Limits</u> <u>GPM</u>	<u>Test Flow Gallons Per Minute</u>		
		<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
5/8	1-20	1/4	2	15
3/4	2-30	1/2	3	25
1	3-50	3/4	4	35
1-1/2	5-100	1-1/2	8	50
2	8-150	2	15	100
3	16-300	4	20	150
4	28-500	7	40	200
6	48-1000	12	60	500

- (C) Current, compound and fire service-type meters shall likewise be tested on at least three rates of flow: one at the minimum test flow and two or more within the normal test flow limits of the American Water Works Association standards, the upper test flow to be at a rate as high as practicable.
- (D) Compound meters should also be tested at a rate within the "changeover" range of flows to determine overall operational efficiency and accuracy of registration.
- (E) Displacement-type meters sized three (3) inches or larger may, at the discretion of the utility, be tested after installation. Current, compound, and fire service-type meters shall be tested in

place to achieve maximum accuracy. For three (3) inch or larger meters, the installation of a test tee in the outlet piping is recommended to facilities because it reduces the cost of testing.

- (F) Upon completion of adjustment and test of any meter under provisions of these rules, the utility shall attach a suitable seal in such a way that the adjustment of registration of the meter cannot be tampered with without breaking the seal.
- (G) The original records of meter tests shall be preserved until superseded by a later test. These records shall give: (1) sufficient information to identify the meter; (2) the reason for the test; (3) date of test and reading of the meter; (4) the computed accuracy both as found and as left; and (5) all other data taken at the time of the test to permit the convenient checking of test results.

#### RULE W-17

##### Meter Accuracy Requirements

- (A) All meters used for measuring quantity of water delivered to a customer shall be in good mechanical condition and shall be adequate in size and design for the type of service which they measure.
- (B) Before being installed for the use of any customer, every water meter whether new, repaired or removed from service for any cause shall be adjusted to register within the limits set forth in the following table:

##### Accurate Limits in Percentages

<u>Meter Type</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Minimum Rate</u>	
	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Repaired</u>
Displacement	98.5/101.5	98.5/101.5	95/101.5	90/101.5
Current	97/102	None	95/102	90/102
Compound*	97/103	97/103	95/103	90/103

\*The minimum required accuracy for compound meters at any rate within the "changeover" range of flows shall be 85%.

##### (C) Periodic Meter Tests

1. Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, a representative sample of 10% of all meters in service shall be periodically inspected and tested by the utility at intervals not exceeding the following schedule:

<u>Size of Meters</u>	<u>Maximum Interval Between Tests</u>
5/8 inch	10 years
3/4 inch	8 years
1 inch	6 years
1-1/2 inch	4 years
2 inch	4 years
3 inch	3 years
4 inch	2 years
6 inch	1 year

2. Nothing in these rules shall be construed to mean that such periodic tests may not be made more frequently than provided for in the above schedule.

#### RULE W-18

##### Meter Test by Request

- (A) Upon written request of any customer, the utility shall, without charge, make a field test of the accuracy of the meter in use at customer's premises provided that the meter has not been tested within one-half the maximum interval provided in the schedule under Rule W-17(C).
- (B) Should any customer request a bench test of their meter, the utility may require in its tariff a charge to defray cost of testing, such charge not to exceed the following schedule of fees:

##### Schedule of Fees

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Fee</u>
5/8 and 3/4	\$10.00
1 inch and 1-1/2 inch	\$15.00
2 inch	\$20.00
Over 2 inches	Actual cost of test

- (C) Upon written application to the Commission by any customer, a test of the customer's meter as provided in the preceding paragraph (B) will be monitored by a representative of the Commission as practicable.
- (D) If meter is found to register fast in excess of the accuracy limits prescribed under Rule W-17, the charge required by Paragraph B above shall be refunded but, if below such accuracy limit, the charge may be retained by the utility as a service charge for conducting test.

- (E) If the customer so desires, the customer or an authorized representative shall have the privilege of witnessing the test and a written report giving the results of the test will be furnished to the customer upon request.
- (F) A meter shall in no way be disturbed after the utility has received notice that application has been made for test by the Commission unless a representative of the Commission is present or unless authority to do so is first given in writing by the Commission or by the customer.

#### RULE W-19

##### Shortage of Supply and Interruption of Delivery

- (A) Shortage and Interruption -- The utility shall exercise reasonable diligence to furnish a continuous and adequate supply of water to its customers and to avoid any shortage or interruption of delivery thereof.
- (B) Temporary Suspension for Repairs -- The utility shall have the right to suspend services temporarily to make necessary repairs or improvements to its system and shall notify the customers affected as soon as circumstances permit, and shall prosecute the work with due diligence and with the least possible inconvenience to its customers.
- (C) Apportionment of Supply During Time of Shortage -- During times of threatened or actual water shortage, the utility shall apportion its available water supply among its customers as directed by the Commission. In the absence of direction from the Commission, it shall apportion the supply in the manner that appears most equitable under the circumstances then prevailing, with due regard to public health and safety.

#### RULE W-20

##### Waste of Water

- (A) Discontinuance of Service -- A utility by Tariff Rule may prohibit negligent or wasteful use of water on a customer's premises which seriously affects the general service.
- (B) Metering of Flat Rate Connections -- In order to protect itself against serious and unnecessary waste or misuse of water, the utility may meter any flat rate service connection and apply the regularly established meter rates. The customer's service will be metered if he continues to waste or misuse water five (5) days after the utility has notified the customer in writing to discontinue such practice.

- (C) Water-Saving Devices -- The utility may require cooling towers or other water-saving devices to be installed and used on air conditioning and refrigeration devices of over three (3) tons.

RULE W-21

Valves

- (A) Valves shall be located so that parts of the system can be isolated for testing or repair. There should be a minimum of one valve per mile. Each branch line shall be valved. Markers indicating the location of each valve shall be installed. Markers should be situated so that normal operation and maintenance of highway or street will not alter its location.